SouthCambs Magazine

www.scambs.gov.uk

Spring 2025

Introducing SAM, our new AI Assistant
Page 16

A new vision for the years ahead
Page 20 & 21

Cost of living support
Page 36

WIN
A three course dinner for four at Scott's All Day in Cambridge!

Turn to page 46

Flower bed planting at Northstowe. Photo: davidjohnsonphotographic.co.uk

News in brief | Climate and environment | Your council
Recycling and waste | Communities | Shop local
Planning | Competition

Remember to recycle in your blue bin when finished
Printed on wood fibre from sustainable forests

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Install Solar Panels

with your experienced local Competent Roofer

"Why have a plumber or electrician messing around on your roof when you could use your local, experienced roofing company?"

...and receive

- Cut Your Electricity Bills
- Reduce Your Carbon Footprint
- Generate Your Own Renewable Electricity
- Store Excess Energy - Add a Battery(s)
- Avoid Rising Fuel Bills
- Sell Excess Energy - Smart Export Guarantee*

* subject to status

LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Size of system	Number of panels	*Price
1.7Kw	4	£5,495
2.55Kw	6	£5,995
3.4Kw	8	£6,595
4.25Kw	10	£7,295
5.10Kw	12	£7,995

Price includes the supply and installation of full kits including Certification, Commissioning & All Access Equipment

***This is the total price you'll pay - there is no VAT added!**

PROJECTS 4 ROOFING

CALL NOW on

01223 258049

www.projects4roofing.co.uk/solar

APPROVED INSTALLER MCS NAPIT RECC APPROVED CODE TRADINGSTANDARDS.UK Which? Trusted trader APPROVED CRAFTSMAN TRUSTMARK Government Endorsed Quality

Hello

Welcome to the spring edition of South Cambs Magazine

I'm sure you'll have heard how central government is keen to reorganise local government. Rather than having separate county and district councils providing services - which is currently the case in Cambridgeshire - there is a desire to have single 'unitary' Councils. However, many people are worried about how local this new structure will make local government, and I admit I do share those worries. Nevertheless, we're working with other local councils to look at what might work best for residents. We'll know more as the year progresses and will provide you with more information through South Cambs Magazine as we can.

In the meantime, 2025 is set to be a year to highlight our dedication to the environment and pledge to be greener than ever before. This edition of the magazine therefore explores tips to not only save water but also save you money on your water bill. Keeping a closer eye on water use protects both a precious resource and our local habitats. To find out more turn to page 8.

We have been busy putting together our Corporate Plan for the years ahead. We received 400 responses during last year's consultation into our proposed plan for the future. Those views helped inform our new goals. You can read more about how we intend to achieve these aspirations by going to page 20.

Elsewhere, our Community Chest fund has helped to support the Liberation Cycle, a lovely new initiative that saves bikes otherwise destined for landfill - and repairs them before giving them away for free to people in need across the region. We gave a grant to this charity to help enable people who may not be able to purchase a bike, a chance to travel in a more sustainable way and connect with others in their community. Read more on Page 30.

I hope you find the magazine enjoyable to read.

Cllr Bridget Smith
Leader
South Cambridgeshire District Council

Contents

News in brief	4
Climate and environment	8
Your council	13
Recycling and waste	24
Communities	29
Shop local	39
Planning	44
Competition	46

Summer 2025 Edition

The next issue of South Cambs Magazine will be delivered between **Tuesday 27 May and Saturday 7 June.**

Contact Smart Distribution for delivery enquiries.

scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk
0800 6444 011

Contact us

It's easier to contact us online. You can do more online at a time to suit you.

Chat with SAM, our new AI Assistant

SAM can help you instantly, or signpost you to the relevant team that can help you further. Just click on the speech bubble icon on our website and ask SAM a question.

www.scambs.gov.uk

You can also create a My South Cambs account, to see personalised information – such as your Council Tax payments or your Benefits account.

https://mysouthcambs.scambs.gov.uk

Or you can email us, phone us, write to us, visit our offices, or get in touch using our social media channels.

scdc@scambs.gov.uk
01954 713 000

Our phone line is available 8am to 6.30pm on Wednesdays (until 5.30pm all other weekdays).

South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambs Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA

Our office opening hours are 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. If you come to the office, we'll try our very best to resolve your query there and then. If we can't, our advisors will book you a follow-up appointment when you will be able to speak to someone from our relevant service. Alternatively, you can book your own appointment at www.scambs.gov.uk/book-an-appointment

South Cambridgeshire District Council
@SouthCambs

Request a large print copy
communications@scambs.gov.uk

Putting residents first

If you phone us we will:

- resolve your enquiry as quickly as possible
- provide voicemail if the person you need is unavailable
- answer your phone message within three working days.

If you write to us we will:

- reply to your letter or email within 10 working days.

If we write to you we will:

- write in plain language
- arrange for translation, large type, braille or audio tapes upon request.

If we visit you we will:

- carry identification that you can check with a phone call to us
- arrive at the time we say we will, or give you as much notice as possible if we have to change the time.

If we get it wrong we will:

- apologise if we have made a mistake or failed to meet our standards
- acknowledge your written complaint within three working days
- reply in full to your complaint within 10 working days.

Assisted Digital Service Support

We have set up Assisted Digital Service Support to ensure that nobody is excluded from completing an online application or e-form due to difficulty with digital skills or access to a computer. Eligible customers are offered telephone support or face to face support by one of our contact centre advisors. Your local library or Parish Council hub can also help.

To take advantage of this service, just call us on 01954 713 000.

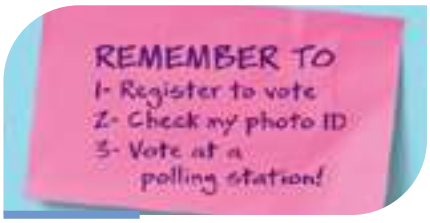
News in brief

Thanks to long-serving Parish Councillor

We would like to congratulate Charles Jones who is retiring in May after serving on Fen Ditton Parish Council since May 1998. Charles has provided valuable dedication, hard work, and commitment to serving the community over the years. Thank you for your valuable service.

Parish councillors work together to help improve their community for the benefit of other residents. However, this only happens if there are enough people willing to become parish councillors and there is currently a shortage.

If you are interested in becoming one, just contact your local parish council who will be able to tell you more or visit www.scambs.gov.uk/parish-council-guidance



County Council and Mayoral elections in May 2025

Elections for a Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be held on 1 May alongside elections for Cambridgeshire County Council. To take part in these elections you must be registered to vote. You are less likely to be registered if you have recently moved house or turned 18.

You can find more information about registering to vote on our website at www.scambs.gov.uk/elections

To vote you will need to bring valid photo ID. A full list of acceptable documents can be found on our website. You can also find more information about how to apply for a voter authority certificate, a special form of ID which you can use for voting.

Remember, if you are going to be away on polling day you can apply online to vote by post or proxy. All the information is on our website.

Community Forums

Our Community Forums are public meetings held in locations around Greater Cambridge that are experiencing major housing growth. It is an opportunity for communities to engage with key stakeholders on major developments. Some of the meetings are held jointly with Cambridge City Council. They are held every three months, and the next round of meetings are listed to the right. Please check our website closer to meeting dates as they are liable to change based on local circumstances.

For full 2025 dates, formats, agendas, Teams meeting links and to submit questions in advance, please visit: www.scambs.gov.uk/community-forums

Bourn Airfield & Cambourne: 25 June

North West & West Cambridge: 26 February & 12 June

Northstowe: 5 March & 4 June

Cambridge East: 12 March & 18 June

Waterbeach: 19 March & 2 July

North East Cambridge: 26 March & 9 July

Children's Easter and May holiday sports camps

Join our popular athletics and netball camps for children in school years three to nine. They are for children of all abilities. Led by qualified coaches, the camps offer a fantastic opportunity for kids to try out a variety of different activities and learn new skills in a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment.

Easter Camps

- Athletics – 7 & 8 April at Cambridge University Athletics Track
- Netball – 9 & 10 April at Impington Sports Centre

May half term Camps

- Athletics – 27 May at Cambridge University Athletics Track
- Netball – 28 May at Impington Sports Centre

For full details and to book, visit our website at **www.scambs.gov.uk/sportscamps**

Active & Healthy 4 Life

Discover a healthier you with our Active & Healthy 4 Life exercise referral scheme, tailored for individuals managing everyday health conditions. Qualified instructors create personalised gym-based exercise programmes, encouraging twice-weekly attendance and offering advice on complementary activities like walking activities, cycling and swimming. If you're 18 or older and aiming to manage conditions like high blood pressure and cholesterol, diabetes, osteoporosis, arthritis, asthma, or seeing pre/post operative and mental health support this scheme could be for you.

Simply ask your health professional to complete our website's referral form, then contact your preferred sports centre to schedule an instructor appointment.

Join for £20 per month for four months. Full details, visit **www.scambs.gov.uk/active** or email **AandH4L@scambs.gov.uk**

Bottisham Sports Centre are now taking new referrals. For cardiac rehab classes at Cambourne and Sawston, full details are available at **www.scambs.gov.uk/cardiac**

Thank you for recycling cables

In October 2024, we rolled out special bins to some libraries and community hubs as part of The Great Cable Challenge; a national campaign aiming to collect one million cables or chargers for recycling in one month. Cables contain valuable resources like copper, which are needed for industries such as expanding the UK's wind and solar energy generation. Copper production is struggling to meet demand, so clearing out unused cables is an important way to bolster supply. With your help we collected more than 2,000 extra cables which can now be given a second life. Thank you!

Find local cable recycling points at **www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk**

CARE LEAVER COVENANT FRIENDLY EMPLOYER

Empowering Care Leavers through work experience with us

In October 2024, we welcomed four care leavers to participate in a work experience placement at South Cambridgeshire Hall. A care leaver is a young person who has been in the care of the local authority and is transitioning to independent living. We aim to support these young adults by providing valuable skills and insights into potential career paths.

The young adults spent time with various teams, including Planning, Communications, Climate and Environment, and Economic Development, gaining a real taste of the range of careers available in local government.

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback, and the participants commented on how the experience boosted their confidence and how much they enjoyed being in a workplace environment. All were pleasantly surprised by the variety of roles available with us. Check our latest vacancies at **www.scambs.gov.uk/jobs**

We hope to offer further placement opportunities in 2025, helping more young adults transition smoothly into the workforce and build successful, independent lives.

South Cambs Magazine

Enquiries should be directed to:

Editor: Tom Horn

Editorial: Megan Jerome, Jessica Lydon and Kath Sansom.

South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA

communications@scambs.gov.uk

Design: Danielle Harrington
hello@dhdesignstudios.co.uk

Advertising: Charlotte Dyason at Media Shed Ltd

First Floor, West Wing, Beater House, Turkey Mill, Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5PP

charlotte@media-shed.co.uk

0207 183 1815

The opinions and views expressed in South Cambs Magazine are not necessarily those of South Cambridgeshire District Council or Media Shed Ltd. All data contained in advertisements, being subject to the Advertising Standards Authority guidelines, is accepted in good faith at the time of going to press.

quattro-tech

AUDI CUPRA SEAT SKODA VOLKSWAGEN

info.stives@quattro-tech.co.uk 01480 464869

10c Harding Way, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 3WR

AUDI, CUPRA, SEAT, ŠKODA, VOLKSWAGEN & VW COMMERCIAL SPECIALIST

www.quattro-tech.co.uk — *Servicing Repairs Diagnostics Performance Genuine parts EVs*

Also part of the Quattro-Tech Group:

QTP
www.qtperformance.co.uk
Order, Arrive and Drive

QTEV
www.qtev.co.uk
Volkswagen Group EV Specialist

VanWerks
www.qt-vanwerks.co.uk
Bespoke van conversions and upgrades

CARS
www.qtcars.co.uk
Volkswagen Group used car sales

Google Reviews ★★★★★
750+ 5 star reviews

info.cambridge@quattro-tech.co.uk 01223 800850

11A Solopark Trading Est, Station Road, Cambridge, CB22 3HB

Discover our range of tailored incentives to help get you moving!

Become part of the brand new community

An exclusive collection of 2 & 3 bedroom apartments and 3 & 4 bedroom houses.

Homes ready to move into from £296,000.

- Local shops
- Community facilities

- 23 acre lake
- Woodland walks and play areas

Network of cycle paths and footways

59 acres of open spaces and sports pitches

- 5 new schools
- Health centre

Call 01223 901907 to find out more

Show Home and Marketing Suite open daily 10am – 5pm

Thursday 10am – 7pm

Stonebond.

BIDWELLS

PREMIER GUARANTEE EXCELLENCE AWARDS
DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR 2014

Ely Road, Waterbeach,
Cambridge CB25 9PG
waterbeach@stonebondltd.com

Information correct at time of print.

Don’t go with the flow!

Top tips to take control of your water use

How often do you think about water? You may be surprised to know we’re using more of it than ever before. According to Cambridge Water, we each use 143 litres a day.

The water that comes out of our taps in South Cambridgeshire is drawn from the natural underground storage which also supplies our rivers and chalk streams and is only replenished by rainfall. High demand for water, especially in times of low rainfall, risks drying out our chalk streams and putting these nationally important habitats at risk. Read more about these precious waterways on the next page.

Although there are plans to relieve stress on water supply in the area, environmental groups warn that to adapt to the pressures of climate change and a growing population, we must all build good habits and reduce our water use at home.

You’ll be protecting our environment and could save money on your water bill!

Top tips for reducing water use

- Take short showers instead of baths. You can also switch to a water-saving shower head that aerates the flow of water for a better soak!
- If your toilet has a dual flush, remember to use the smaller one. If not, you could install devices like Hippo the Water Saver and reduce your flush by litres.
- Don’t leave taps running while you brush your teeth, or while you’re soaping your hands. Similarly, turn off the shower while shampooing your hair.
- Use your dish washer on the eco setting and only rinse items that really need it.
- Take advantage of Cambridge Water’s GetWaterFit, an interactive online tool that provides advice and lets you order free water-saving products. Visit www.cambridge-water.co.uk/saving-water
- If your water supply is not metered, consider applying to have a free smart meter installed. This gives an incentive to use less water and might save you money.
- Collect and recycle rainwater where possible, especially for use in the garden. Invest in a water butt with drain downpipe connectors so you can water plants with rainwater. To install water butts in community buildings, local groups can access our Community Chest Grants.

These tips come from the Cam Valley Forum and Transition Cambridge websites. Transition Cambridge recently completed a ‘How We Use Water’ survey – you can visit their website to view the results and find more tips on reducing water use.

Visit:

- www.camvalleyforum.uk/water-resources
- www.transitioncambridge.org/wiki/Water_SaveWaterTips

Protect your local chalk streams

Chalk streams are rare and valuable water courses that shelter unique plants and animals.

They are nationally important as around 85% of the world's chalk streams are in England, with many of these in East Anglia. In South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge, we are lucky to have at least 17 main chalk streams, focussed in the area known as the Cam Valley.

Chalk streams emerge from water springs in chalk bedrock, called the chalk aquifer. As water moves through this chalk, it is cleaned naturally, creating beautiful clear streams that support a unique array of wildlife.

Healthy chalk streams are home to iconic species like brown trout, otters, water voles and kingfishers, rare insects like the winterbourne stonefly, and plants like stream water crowfoot.

What's the problem?

Many chalk streams are in poor condition, suffering from several threats.

- Pollution, sewage and erosion can damage water quality, degrading the chalk stream environment for the plants and animals that live there.
- Water is taken from the chalk aquifer to supply homes, farms and businesses. This is called abstraction. When water is taken from the chalk aquifer faster than it naturally restores, chalk streams can be damaged or can dry up completely. This is called over-abstraction.
- Invasive non-native species like American signal crayfish can also upset the streams' delicate natural balance.

How can you help?

- You can help chalk streams in our area by reducing your water use, to ease the demand on the aquifer. We have put together our top water saving tips on the previous page.
- Get involved in looking after chalk streams and nature in your local area. Contact your local Parish Council to find out if there is a local nature group near you.
- Report pollution in chalk streams and other watercourses to Anglian Water on 03457 145 145 or **anglianwater.co.uk/tell-us**
- As spring arrives, it's a good time to visit some chalk streams for yourself. Here's some of the examples in South Cambridgeshire with public access:
  - The River Granta can be found in Babraham, Linton, Great Abington and Hildersham via public footpaths and in village recreation grounds.
  - The River Mel near Meldreth and Melbourn has a footpath for much of its length and can be accessed at public playing fields.
  - The River Shep has a footpath along the majority of its course and takes in Shepreth village centre.

The River Granta, with thanks to Robert Martyr, Cambridge City Council

The River Granta meets the River Cam, with thanks to South Staffs Water

Cllr Brian Milnes, our Lead Cabinet Member for Environment, said:

> **"Chalk streams are one of the rarest freshwater ecosystems in the world, with around 85% of them found in the UK. Their rarity makes them vital habitats, supporting diverse wildlife.**
>
> **These streams also play key roles in flood regulation, nutrient cycling and maintaining clean water supplies, making their protection crucial for both biodiversity and the essential services they provide."**

Maximise home energy efficiency with Action on Energy

Action on Energy is a partnership of local councils that provides communities with advice and support for maximising home energy efficiency.

The partnership aims to save you money on your energy bills and reduce your carbon emissions through providing funding opportunities and retrofit-focused guidance and resources.

For the last two years we have delivered improvements to homes through the Home Upgrade Grant 2, funded by the UK Government, which is now closed for applications.

We have provided more than 75 properties with a variety of insulation and clean heat installations in South Cambridgeshire alone. These installations aim to make it easier and less expensive to keep homes at a comfortable temperature year-round.

We visited several properties as part of an audit for the Home Upgrade Grant 2, and each resident described the improvements as positively impacting their bill savings and comfort.

One resident said:

> "Thank you, and to the Action on Energy team, for helping me to acquire the new heating system. It really has changed my life on a day-to-day basis and is appreciated much more than you could ever know."

Following the success of this scheme, we will continue to seek funding opportunities to support further energy efficiency upgrades to homes.

Any updates to funding available can be found on the funding page of the Action on Energy website. The website also has information on energy efficiency, retrofit measures, installation, additional funding schemes, partnership contractors, and other practical guidance.

To learn more about funding schemes, the eligibility criteria for each of them, and all other key information, go to the Action on Energy website **www.actiononenergycambs.org**

Alternatively, contact the Action on Energy team:

Email: **homeenergy@scambs.gov.uk**
Phone: 07598 069067

action on energy
SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Eco-friendly warm homes

Paying too much for your glasses?

Save Money - Buy Direct!

Visit our factory shop to see our fabulous range of Discount Prescription Eyewear

- Hundreds of frames to choose from, including designer frames from Ray-Ban, Polo Ralph Lauren, Oakley, PRADA, Ted Baker and Versace
- Specialists in high and complex prescriptions
- Same-day or next-day service available*
- Save up to 75%
- Huge range of designer sunglasses
- Full range of sports eyewear

Official stockists

*subject to prescription and availability

Ray-Ban · POLO RALPH LAUREN · OAKLEY · PRADA EYEWEAR · TED BAKER LONDON · VERSACE

We are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm Saturday

ALL EYES SPECTACLE MAKERS SINCE 1987

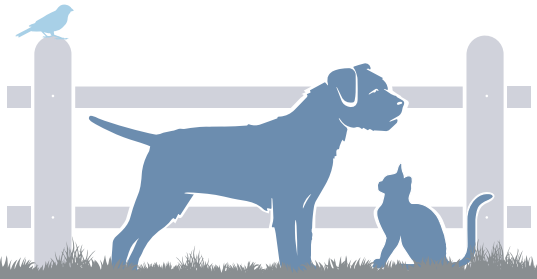
Call us **01954 231545**

Visit our website **www.all-eyes.co.uk**

20 Norman Way Industrial Park, Over, Cambridge CB24 5QE

Opening Hours

MON-FRI 8.30AM-6.30PM
SAT 9.00AM-12.30PM
Plenty of on site parking



With this advert get 10% off your first consultation! HASSLE FREE SWITCHING

Highgate Veterinary Clinic

New Independent Fear Free Practice in Cambridgeshire

Caring, Compassionate, Highly Skilled Team · Gold Standard Patient Care
In State Of The Art Facilities · Affordable Pricing · Pet Health Plan To Spread The Cost Treatment

REGISTER YOUR PET

Fear Free Certified Professional · RCVS Accredited Practice · Silver Cat Friendly Clinic 2024

TO REGISTER OR BOOK AN APPOINTMENT
01954 620555 · info@highgatevet.com
www.highgatevet.com

Where to Find us
Unit 11, Highgate Farm, Over Mereway, off Over Road, Willingham, CB24 5EU

Specialist Dental Partners

The Old Dairy, Brook Road
Thriplow, SG8 7RG
www.specialistdentalpartners.co.uk
01763 261129 / 01223 918187

worried about your teeth?
haven't had a clean in a while?
you can see a dental hygienist
without a dentist referral
call us direct, or book online via our website

routine and specialist dentistry - dental hygiene - osteopathy - facial aesthetics

Greenwood homecare

Award-winning home care in Cambridge

We provide high-quality care to help you live independently, in the comfort of your own home. Our friendly, and well-trained carers, can support you with things like personal care, medication, companionship or anything else you need.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

01223 850938

cambridge@greenwoodhomecare.co.uk

www.greenwoodhomecare.co.uk

FREE ASSESSMENT

DAY, LIVE-IN OR NIGHT CARE AVAILABLE

MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE

An Academy of CAM

Everybody is Somebody

Secondary School for pupils in Years 7-11

Come and see us in action.

To book a tour

email: office@melbournvc.org

or phone: 01763 223400

The Moor | Melbourn | Royston | Herts | SG8 6EF

Four-day week consultation

Up until the end of the day on Sunday 23 March, you can share your views on the services you've received from us during our four-day week trial.

An eight-week public consultation got underway at the end of January. It has been designed so residents, businesses, town and parish councils and community or voluntary groups can share views on how they have found Council services since January 2023 – when our trial of a four-day week began.

The information gathered during the consultation will help our District Councillors decide on the next steps for the four-day week at the Council.

We announced plans to trial a four-day week – where people deliver 100% of their work, in around 80% of their contracted hours, for 100% of their pay – to help address acute recruitment and retention issues.

Following a detailed and independent review of an initial three-month trial, the trial was extended for a further year and we have continued to work in this way.

The idea of a four-day week at the Council is to improve services by filling hard-to-fill posts permanently, rather than relying on more expensive agency staff, which can also be disruptive. For example, when bin lorry drivers leave, it can disrupt collections when new drivers are learning bin routes or agency drivers cover them as replacements are trained. 11 lorry drivers left the Council in 2022, but only five did in 2023 after bin crews joined the four-day week trial.

We are now eager to hear about residents' experiences of our services during this way of working – which this consultation is allowing us to gather. Residents can also comment on the four-day week generally.

Share your views on any of our services during the consultation

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr John Williams, said:

> **"We'd really appreciate you taking the time to respond to this consultation. It's always been our plan to give residents, businesses, parish and town councils and community groups the chance to share their views with us. We want to understand your experiences of services you've received during our four-day week arrangements. So, we are very pleased to have now started that process.**
>
> **Our approach is designed to ensure those who have used our services during the four-day week arrangements can quickly and easily share their views - though anyone, anywhere is welcome to submit comments."**

The consultation runs until 11:59pm on Sunday 23 March

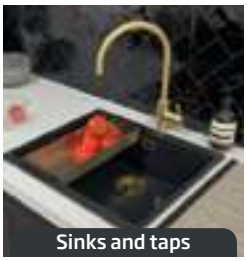
To take part in the consultation, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/4dw

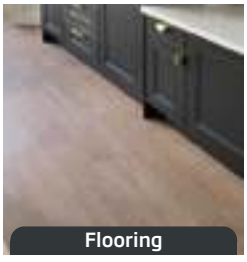
If you'd prefer to complete a paper survey, email communications@scambs.gov.uk or call 01954 713 000

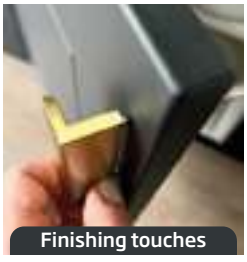
We can update it all...

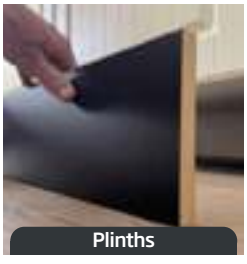
We can transform your kitchen without the disruption or undertaking of a full replacement, in as little as a day! Our 'Top that Fits on Top' worktop process, enables us to provide a quick and easy installation and we can cover every other element of your new kitchen too!

- ✓ Complete kitchen makeovers
- ✓ Installed directly over existing surfaces
- ✓ Made-to-measure replacement doors
- ✓ Keep your original units
- ✓ No downtime or demolition = less mess & disruption









GRANITE® transformations
KITCHEN & BATHROOM MAKEOVERS

FAMILY RUN BUSINESS TRADING FOR OVER 20 YEARS

For further information or a free no obligation quote call or visit:

Cambridge Showroom • 01223 915 899
53 High Street, Trumpington, Cambridge, CB2 9HZ

Watford Showroom • 01923 383 795
834 St Albans Road, Garston, Watford, WD23 9FL

Trustpilot
Rated "Excellent"

granitetransformations.co.uk/cambridge
granitetransformations.co.uk/watford

ADDENBROOKE'S IS HERE FOR YOU.

Will you be here for Addenbrooke's?

"The wonderful staff at Addenbrooke's continue to give everything and save many lives. They couldn't do it without the help of gifts that people leave in their wills to the hospital."

Jane Olds
Matron, Adult Critical Care

Leaving a gift in your will is a wonderful way to say thank you and leave a lasting legacy.

You too can make Addenbrooke's even better.

To request a wills pack call 01223 217757
email wills@act4addenbrookes.org.uk
or visit act4addenbrookes.org.uk/wills

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

act
Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust

Chesneys Beaumont 8 with Alhambra surround on honed slate hearth

kilmagner

Chimney Sweep/Services
Stove Installations
Stove Servicing and Repairs
Insurance Inspection Reports
Flue Liner Replacement
Bird nests removed
Bird guards and Cowls
HETAS Registered

Cambridge and surrounding areas
info@kilmagner.com
01223 944 252

HETAS

GUILD OF MASTER SWEEPS

Meet SAM: our New AI Digital Assistant!

We are excited to introduce our website's new artificial intelligence (AI) Assistant. SAM (Service AI Assistant Module) is here to make life easier by offering quick answers and helpful information, right when you need it.

What can SAM do for you?

SAM is designed to help with all sorts of things. Need information about community events? Ways to pay your Council Tax? Have a question about any services that we provide or amenities close by? Just ask SAM!

SAM can help answer common questions, pointing you in the right direction to find information on our website when you need assistance. SAM is available 24/7, so you can get answers at a convenient time for you. It's like having a helpful assistant available anytime, day or night.

How does SAM work?

SAM uses AI to understand what you're asking and give you helpful responses. It's like texting a friend who always knows the answer! Simply type in your question, and SAM will take care of the rest.

Why should you try SAM?

SAM isn't just any chatbot - it's here to make your life easier. If you ever need information or guidance, SAM is just a message away. The more you use SAM, the better it gets at understanding your needs and providing helpful responses.

Introducing AI Voice Technology

We're also pleased to announce a new upgrade to our phone systems. As part of our ongoing commitment to improving service and efficiency, we are introducing AI voice technology for our Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system.

You may soon notice that calls to our phone lines are answered differently. Instead of hearing a traditional recorded message, you'll experience a more natural-sounding voice powered by advanced AI technology. This is designed to handle your inquiries more effectively and efficiently, ensuring quicker responses and a smoother experience.

This system will help free-up our Contact Centre colleagues, for longer, to support residents with more complex issues over the phone.

Whether you are reporting an issue, making a request, or simply seeking information, the AI system will guide you through the process, providing relevant options and information with ease.

SAM | Service AI Assistant Module
Hi, I am SAM – your Service AI Assistant Module for South Cambridgeshire District Council. How can I help you today?
When is my blue bin being collected?
Ask me a question

What's Changed?

- **Faster and smarter assistance:** AI technology allows for more dynamic interactions, meaning that the system can understand and process your requests quickly and accurately.
- **Seamless navigation:** The system will offer intuitive prompts that adapt based on your needs, making it easier to get to the right department or resolution faster.
- **Improved voice quality:** The AI voice is designed to sound more natural, providing a more pleasant and conversational experience.

Your privacy and security

As always, your privacy and security remain our top priority. The AI system follows strict privacy protocols and ensures your personal information is handled safely and securely.

Work with like-minded people at South Cambs Connect!

Are you looking for space to set-up your business and co-create with like-minded people? Need a spacious setting to network and brainstorm ideas with specific groups from the community?

Designed for people, businesses and communities to expand professional and personal horizons, network, and collaborate, South Cambs Connect is a modern, open workspace designed to provide a creative and dedicated co-working environment.

Located within South Cambridgeshire Hall on Cambourne Business Park, South Cambs Connect is available for use by local entrepreneurs, start-up businesses, and community groups.

The shared workspace has two meeting rooms, a choice of working environments, and an open, flexible engagement space. Open Monday to Friday between 9am to 4pm, it offers a range of facilities including:

- well-maintained modern office surroundings
- spacious ground floor co-working environment
- bookable hot desks
- business engagement space with networking opportunities
- ergonomic office furniture, booths and private spaces
- large car park with EV chargers
- free office Wi-Fi
- breakout space with access to hot drinks and refreshments
- full wheelchair accessibility
- access to business support and advice

South Cambs Connect has been host to a range of organisations during its first six months.

Midlife360 CIC, a Cambridgeshire-based social enterprise helping

women in midlife thrive at work, ran a series of in-person workshops which explored the challenges women face when looking for a new job, how to make their CV stand out and how to approach an interview.

Cadre Rocket, a new group for small to medium sized businesses and freelancers in Cambridgeshire, hosted a series of in-person and hybrid networking events that were well received.

The space also launched the Youth Enterprise Market Challenge, to help young people create successful local market ventures.

south cambs connect

What users have said about South Cambs Connect:

"Blown away by the customer service"

"When I arrived for the first time, I was blown away by the customer service provided. It felt thoroughly different to hiring an office space anywhere else - the main reason for this difference being the staff. I had several lovely conversations, connecting me with people who could further help develop my business idea."

"Spacious, bright and clean"

"The space is spacious and bright. It is clean (including the toilet facilities), and the coffee is great and not expensive."

"Brilliant"

"Beyond my expectation. It's brilliant. The thing I liked most was the feeling of open space in a working environment."

Our free trial of this space has been extended to 31 March 2025. To find out how South Cambs Connect can meet your needs and to book the space, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/south-cambs-connect

Visit South Cambs

Put a spring in your step!

As longer days and warmer weather approach, why not take a look at what's on offer around South Cambridgeshire

Explore... the great outdoors

Discover... events and activities taking place

Enjoy... tasty treats at one of our many hospitality venues

Find inspiration for the whole family
for things to do and places to go at
www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk

SPRING BRINGS
NEW BEGINNINGS

Now is the perfect time to start your next chapter. Experience the vibrant community and exceptional care awaiting you at our luxury care homes in Cambridgeshire.

Find out more – book your tour today:

CAMBRIDGE GROVE	MONTAGUE HOUSE
01223 754 253	01480 275 027
Cambridge Road, Fulbourn, Cambridge, CB21 5ED	Keeling Lane, Brampton, Huntingdon PE28 4BS
enquiries@hamberleycarehomes.co.uk	www.hamberleycarehomes.co.uk

HAMBERLEY
CARE HOMES

Setting a vision for the years ahead

Just after your South Cambs Magazine went to print, District Councillors were setting our new priorities and next year's budget.

It's after we asked you to help shape our plans for the years ahead – to ensure South Cambridgeshire remains one of the best places to live and work in the country. Almost 400 responses were received during our six-week consultation. That feedback helped develop our Corporate Plan for the next five years.

> **"Our vision is for a fairer, kinder and greener South Cambridgeshire, where all residents will be equal partners in their communities. We aspire to create a better district to the benefit of everyone in our communities.**
>
> **We recognise the many challenges that face the district and will continue to work to overcome these to help realise its full potential."**

Supporting local traders at our annual Christmas market

2024 saw the one-year anniversary of our Temporary Community Centre at Northstowe

Healthy and supported communities

Supporting and engaging with our communities is key to tackling the challenges we face as a district. Our diversity is our strength and helping everyone live freely and independently is essential to promoting healthy and supported communities.

Sustainable homes and vibrant places

A home is more than a roof over your head, it is the foundation on which people build their lives. An affordable home is essential for people to live happy, fulfilling lives. In light of the housing crisis, we are committed to strengthening our communities by delivering sustainable, affordable homes and vibrant places to live.

Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire

Already recognised as a nationally significant area for development, helping local businesses thrive is key to the development of our district - bringing new jobs and opportunities into people's communities.

Being green to our core

Being green is at the heart of everything we do. We're tackling the climate and ecological crises head-on, ensuring our district is ready for the challenges of climate change.

Financially secure and fit for the future

We have a duty to provide high quality cost-efficient services. Being open, transparent, and inclusive and letting evidence guide our decisions is critical to putting residents first.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr John Williams, said:

"We're proud of how we've managed our finances through the years. It continues to be challenging due to increasing demand for our services coupled with reduced funding. It's a fantastic result for residents that independent reports have described us as a financially-sound Council. However, it's important to remember we only retain a very small amount of the Council Tax we collect. Most of it gets passed on to other authorities – and we continue to do all we can to make the most of every pound we receive."

Looking back

As we work to set our aspirations for the years ahead, we've also taken stock of our achievements in recent years. Here's just a tiny snapshot of some of the things we're proud of.

- We have supported numerous markets around the district and now have 14 markets that run regularly throughout the year. This includes our own Christmas Market, which has **hosted 240 traders since 2021 and attracts up to 1,500 visitors annually**.
- We allocated Government grants to support local businesses, communities and the local economy, including **£876,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund and £200,000 to help rejuvenate high streets**.
- We've delivered nearly **400 new Council homes** since April 2020.
- Since late 2022, we have brought **38 empty homes back into use**.
- We have **reduced emissions from our operations and estate by 22%** from 2018/19 levels.
- We've provided funding to help communities respond to the climate and ecological emergencies, including **£625,000 through our Zero Carbon Communities grants**.
- In late 2024 we launched 'SAM', our artificial intelligence website assistant. In its first 25 days it received **1,152 requests - of which 87% were successfully responded to**.
- We've delivered the **Temporary Community Centre and Sports Pavilion** at Northstowe. Plans have also been approved for Northstowe's Permanent Community Centre and building work starts very soon.
- We have **supported 1,785 people with cost-of-living** assistance.
- We have supported **937 guests through the Homes for Ukraine** scheme - among the highest in the country for a District Council.

One of our Zero Carbon Communities grants paid for an electric van that Hope CIC uses as a Mobile Food Hub

Balancing the budget

We charge one of the lowest Council Taxes in the country to provide services to residents and businesses. Most of the Council Tax we collect is passed to Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Police, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and parish or town councils. Some is also passed to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, to support local buses.

Less than half of our annual budget is funded from local Council Tax. Our other funding sources include some outside of our control, such as Business Rates and grants, whilst funding is also generated from our investments. A £5.09 per year increase in Council Tax for the average band D home was due to be discussed by councillors as we went to print. This would help to ensure essential frontline services continue to be delivered effectively.

This would mean the average band D home charge for South Cambridgeshire District Council would become £175.40 per year. We expect that this would still maintain our position among the lowest 25% of taxing District Councils in the country.

Members of our Climate and Environment Advisory Committee met at Comberton Village College last year

Cambridge Cats Protection
Making a better life for cats

Call 01223 528 312 **to provide a forever home for a cat or kitten in our care.** For neutering advice call 01223 236 188.

enquiries@cambridge.cats.org.uk | cats.org.uk/cambridge

We are run solely by volunteers and appreciate your patience at busy times.

CATS PROTECTION

Cats Protection is a registered charity 203644 (England and Wales), SC037711 (Scotland) and is listed as a Section 167 institution by the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland. BC_1770

FULLY TRAINED, INSURED AND DBS CHECKED CAT SITTERS

THE FULBOURN CAT SITTING CO. EST. 2021

In-home cat sitting based on your cat's individual needs, giving your feline companion safety, comfort and familiarity in their own surroundings.

www.**thefulbourncatsittingcompany**.co.uk
@**thefulbourncatsittingcompany**
info@**thefulbourncatsittingcompany**.co.uk

TEL: 01223 277747

Professional bin cleaning service by
WheelieFreshBins

Book a one off or regular clean online at
www.wheeliefreshbins.com

CLICK TO CLEAN

PEST PROBLEM?

LOCAL, PROFESSIONAL, TRUSTED

DRE Pest Control

Rapid, qualified and safe **pest control**.

Residential, farms, commercial premises, hotels, hospitals, schools & businesses.

Removal of **rats, mice, ants, fleas, cockroaches,** & **wasps.**

Are you looking for **one-off, emergency** or **long-term** pest management solutions?

Contact
DRE Pest Control
today!

07789 502556

01954 230708

drepestcontrol.co.uk

info@drepestcontrol.co.uk

19 WALLMANS LANE
SWAVESEY
CAMBRIDGE
CB24 4QY

Would you like your Oven, Range or AGA Gleamed?

then contact
OvenGleamers
The Oven Cleaning Service

FREE
No-obligation
Quotations
Call NOW!

FULL COVID SAFE CLEANING SYSTEM

We'll come to your home and deep clean your Oven, AGA, Range, Hob, Grill and Extractor until they Gleam. Our unique process is mess, odour and fume free using only organic products within your home. All work is covered by the OvenGleamers **Satisfaction Guarantee.**

Call Now 07539 867929

www.ovengleamers.com

Ovens | Ranges | AGAs | Hobs | Extractors

Shelford

Tree Service Ltd

Professional Tree Surgeons covering Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire

Fully Qualified & Insured

01763 208361

07743406569

shelfordtreeservice.co.uk

Bin collection calendar

Bins must be put out by 6am on your collection day. Close lids fully. Please report missed collections between 3:30pm on collection day and 3:30pm the next working day.

For advice on how to leave out extra recycling for collection and other policies, or to report a missed bin, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/bins

NEVER BIN BATTERIES OR VAPES
They cause fires in our bin lorries, and must be recycled separately.

Vapes can be taken back to vape shops, supermarkets, petrol stations or to the large Household Recycling Centres for recycling.

Small household batteries can be put in a small plastic bag, tied shut and left on the top of your bin on collection day. Larger batteries such as e-bike batteries should be taken to Household Recycling Centres.

GROUP A

TUESDAY

Coton, Great and Little Chishill, Great Shelford, Heydon, Hinxton, Ickleton, Little Shelford, South Trumpington, Stapleford, Whittlesford

WEDNESDAY

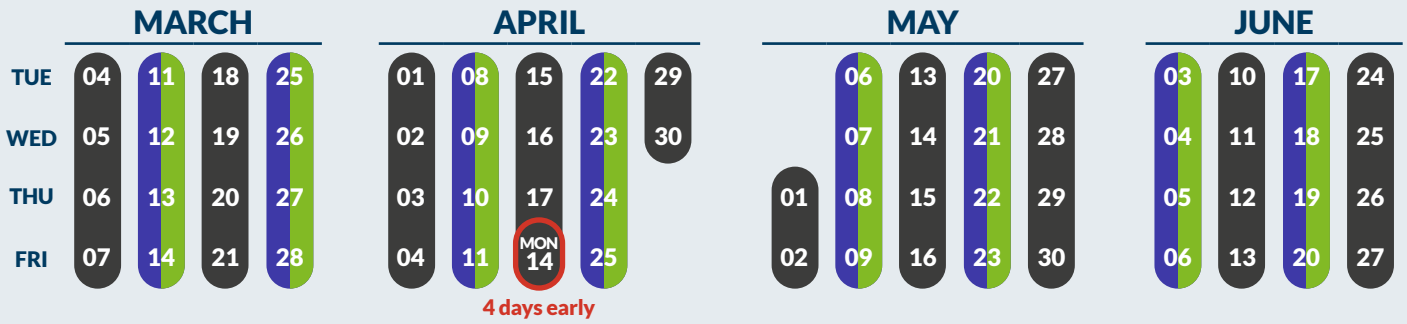
Balsham, Carlton, Fen Ditton, Fulbourn, Great Wilbraham, Horningsea, Horseheath, Landbeach, Little Wilbraham, Six Mile Bottom, Stow-Cum-Quy, Teversham, Waterbeach, West Wickham, West Wratting, Weston Colville

THURSDAY

Abington Pigotts, Barton, Bassingbourn, Cambourne (Great - south of High St.), Caldecote, Chittering, Comberton, Grantchester, Great Eversden, Guilden Morden, Hardwick, Harlton, Haslingfield, Kingston, Litlington, Little Eversden, Madingley, Milton, Odsey, Orchard Park, Orwell, Shingay-Cum- Wendy, Steeple Morden, Toft, Whaddon, Wimpole

FRIDAY

Boxworth, Childerley, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Fen Drayton, Graveley, Knapwell, Longstanton, Northstowe, Papworth Everard, Papworth St. Agnes, Swavesey



Blue and green bin Black bin only Change of date

GROUP B

TUESDAY

Barrington, Duxford, Fowlmere, Foxton, Harston, Hauxton, Melbourn, Meldreth, Newton, Shepreth, Thriplow

WEDNESDAY

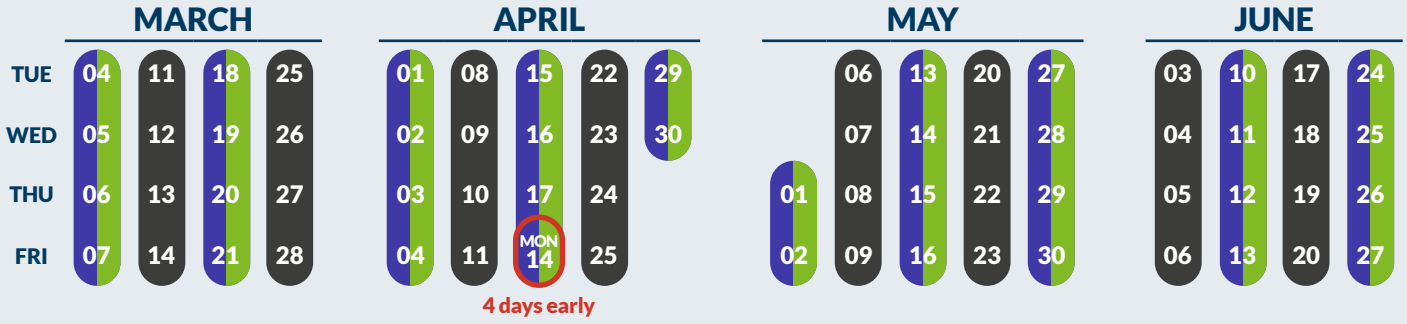
Babraham, Bartlow, Castle Camps, Great Abington, Hildersham, Horseheath (Cardinal's Green), Linton, Little Abington, Pampisford, Sawston, Shudy Camps

THURSDAY

Arrington, Bar Hill, Bourn, Cambourne (West, Lower, Upper and Great - north of High St.), Caxton, Croydon, Dry Drayton, Gamlingay, Girton, Hatley, Little Gransden, Lolworth, Longstowe, Tadlow

FRIDAY

Cottenham, Histon, Impington, Oakington & Westwick, Over, Rampton, Willingham



What can you **recycle** through your blue bin?

Yes

Remember to rinse food containers

✓Clean ✓Empty ✓Don't bag it

Cardboard

Paper & magazines

Tins, cans & foil

Aerosol cans

Shredded paper *(in envelope or clear sack)*

Glass bottles & jars

Cartons

Plastic pots, tubs, trays & empty bags

Plastic bottles

Please put used batteries in a clear plastic bag and NOT in your bin.
Place the bag on top of any of your wheelie bins. Batteries must not be put inside the bin. Small portable household batteries can be put in the clear bag - e.g. AA, AAA, 6v, 9v, D, C, button. Do not include mobile phone or laptop batteries. Instead take these to a Household Recycling Centre.

No

- ✗ Black bin bags or rubbish
- ✗ Nappies, tissues, kitchen paper, wipes & sanitary waste
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Glasses, flat glass or glass dishes
- ✗ Mirrors, Pyrex, plates/ crockery

The following can be recycled elsewhere – check our website.

- ✗ Clothing and textiles
- ✗ Food, liquid or garden waste
- ✗ Wood, plasterboard & DIY waste
- ✗ Furniture or electricals
- ✗ Scrap metal e.g. pans
- ✗ Hard plastics e.g. bucket
- ✗ Crisp packets

What can you **compost** through your green bin?

Yes

Untreated wood and sawdust

Garden waste

Cooked/uncooked food waste (including meat, fish and dairy)

Used paper tissues and kitchen paper

No

- ✗ Plastic & plastic bags
- ✗ Compostable bags e.g. Biobags
- ✗ Nappies, wipes and sanitary waste
- ✗ Soil or stones
- ✗ Painted or treated wood
- ✗ Cat or dog waste
- ✗ Plant pots and seedling trays
- ✗ Loose ash (wood ash CAN go in the green bin, but only if enclosed in paper bags)

What **rubbish** can go in your black bin?

Yes

Please try to reduce rubbish that cannot be recycled or composted

General rubbish
including nappies, wipes, sanitary waste, polystyrene, broken crockery or glassware (wrapped).

No

- ✗ Rubble/bricks
- ✗ Soil
- ✗ Very heavy items
- ✗ Electrical items
- ✗ Batteries
- ✗ Loose ash or vacuum dust. Please bag.

Not sure if it can be recycled? Check the 'What goes in which bin?' page on our website, via www.scambs.gov.uk/bins for hundreds more items.

TM Electrical SERVICES

Serving Cambridge since 1985

Domestic Commercial Renewables

Fuse Board Upgrades • Lighting Design • Low Energy Solutions
Solar PV • Battery Storage • EV Points

We have a well established team of electricians to cover all domestic electrical projects as well as support all businesses from university to office and retail.

Providing a professional, reliable and competitive electrical service to our clients in and around Cambridge. Give us a call for advice or a free estimate.

01223 441111
Email: enquiries@tm-electrical.com
Website: www.tm-electrical.com

OLEV RECC

The South Cambridge Estate Agents.

COOKE CURTIS & CO

+44 (0) 1223 508050
40 High Street
Trumpington
Cambridge CB2 9LS
www.cookecurtis.co.uk

BLUE HOUSE Computer Help
SPEED UP, FIX UP, OR UPGRADE YOUR COMPUTERS

WE CAN HELP YOU WITH COMPUTER RELATED PROBLEMS AROUND YOUR HOME OR HOME OFFICE

HOW WE CAN HELP
- Fixing Windows Startup Problems
- More Space on your Computer
- Faster Computer Speeds
- Transfer Apps & Files to New Computers
- Setting Up & Repairing Networks
- Fixing Wi-Fi Dead Spots
- Sync all your Devices around the Home
- Virus & Malware Clean Up
- General Maintenance
- Optimisation & Upgrade Services

WHY PEOPLE LOVE WORKING WITH US
We are meticulous, friendly and tidy up after our work
You are safe with our 100 day guarantee
You are protected by our professional indemnity and public liability cover
We can work either in your home or remotely
We can loan you a laptop while we work on your computer

BOOST YOUR SPEED!
We can make your computers work even better and faster than when they were brand new!

TO GET HELP NOW, CALL MICHAEL ON
01223 85 30 20
hello@bluehouse.help · www.bluehouse.help

We get 5 star reviews on ★★★★★ Google
Blue House Computer Help, Cambridge Road, Oakington

DON'T NEED HELP AT THE MOMENT? SAVE ME FOR LATER, JUST IN CASE!

U3AC

Inspiring, Educational, Sociable.

OPEN DAY!

Tuesday 1 July 10am-1pm
27-28 Bridge Street
Cambridge
CB2 1UJ

- Retired or semi-retired?
- Want to explore new ideas, skills and interests and meet new people?
- Meet the tutors and pick up a programme.
- Choose from over 300 educational, social and leisure day-time activities in and around Cambridge.

27-28 Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB2 1UJ
Telephone: 01223 321587
Registered Charity No: 1180769

Join us today
www.u3ac.org.uk

The blue bin recycling journey

The materials you carefully clean, squash or flatten at home, then put into your blue bin, are on a recycling journey.

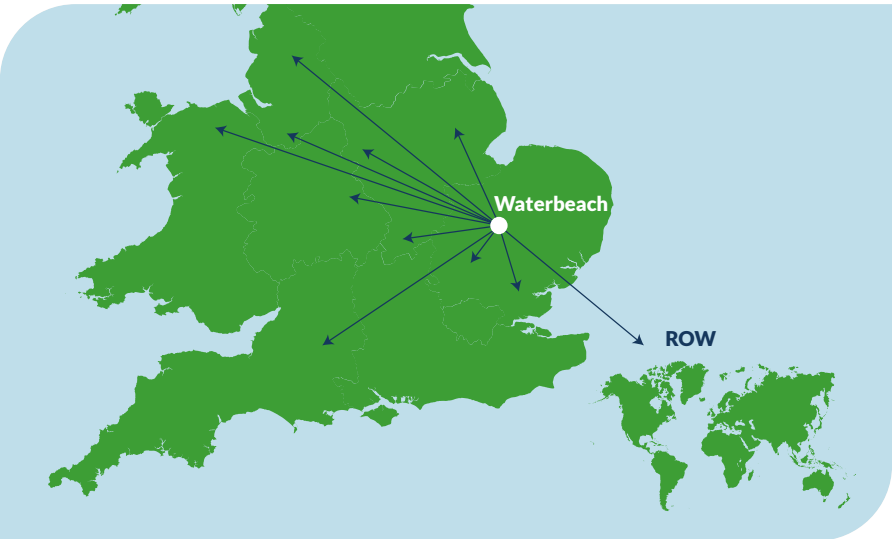
The first destination for your recycling is a Materials Recycling Facility, or MRF for short, where all your metal cans, glass, paper and plastics are sorted and separated, mainly by machinery like magnets and infra-red sensors.

Materials are then pressed into bales and ready to be traded. UK buyers are prioritised. Last year all materials we sent for recycling, except for 38% of paper and card, were sold on to UK-based recyclers. Some materials like paper are transformed into new products at their first destination, being pulped and pressed into reels of paper for newsprint, for example. Others like metal, are melted down into ingots which are sold again to manufacturers who make anything from aeroplanes to cans.

From March this year, there is a change in the journey your recycling takes. For the last ten years it has been dropped off by our bin lorries at a MRF in Waterbeach. However, that contract expired, and following a procurement process bound by public sector rules, a new company was appointed. The company that runs the Waterbeach site was not successful so there had to be a change.

Importantly, the result of the tender means no changes to what you put into your blue bin. The new contract was awarded to Re-Gen Waste Ltd which has a MRF in Newry, Northern Ireland. Initially, this is where your blue bin recycling will be taken. One of Europe's most advanced MRFs, it runs on 100% renewable energy and has specialist machinery.

Re-Gen has also told us that, in the first half of this year, it will take over a MRF on the mainland. This will then negate the need to transport the recycling to Northern Ireland.



The materials from our previous MRF in Waterbeach went through several stages of reprocessing before being made into new products. These stages take place at locations in the UK and abroad.

Re-Gen also has more effective sorting which means better recycling options. For example, it is now possible for 95% of glass to be re-melted and used for new bottles and jars, rather than most being used in road construction.

The new contract does involve further haulage by road than previously. But Re-Gen has an extensive haulage operation transporting both unsorted recycling from 16 councils in England to their MRF, as well as sorted materials from their MRF to recycling companies around the UK. They are using empty space in their lorries returning to their MRF to transport our material.

Like our own Greater Cambridge Shared Waste service, Re-Gen is transitioning its fleet of vehicles to more sustainable fuels like Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil and trialling electric trucks within the first year of our contract.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Cllr Natalie Warren-Green, said:

> "Materials collected for recycling are part of a global economy. There are carbon emissions at every stage of waste re-use. With the change of contract, the impacts of transport changes will be monitored and considered in the round with the wider impacts of processes used for recycling your waste metals, plastics, glass, paper and cardboard."

Exciting upgrades coming to Milton's Household Recycling Centre

Later this year, construction will begin on a state-of-the-art Household Recycling Centre (HRC) in Milton, designed to make recycling and reuse easier, safer, and more convenient for residents.

Cambridgeshire County Council's new facility will be built on the existing site and adjacent land at Butt Lane. With a larger area and a modern design, the upgrades will focus on accessibility, safety, and sustainability.

What's new for residents?

- A split-level design, eliminating the need to climb steps to dispose of waste.
- A new reuse shop to give items a second life.
- Additional car parking and a cycle parking area.
- A separate gate for safe pedestrian access.
- A layout that improves safety by keeping site users separate from operational vehicles.

Opening hours for the new site will remain the same.

With South Cambridgeshire's growing population, including plans for 11,000 new homes at nearby Waterbeach, this expanded facility will ensure convenient recycling and waste disposal for years to come.

Cambridgeshire County Council will introduce a new temporary online booking system for Thriplow, Witchford, and Bluntisham sites when the Milton site is temporarily closed.

Timeline and temporary changes

- Construction is due to start in autumn 2025 and will take around nine months.
- A temporary closure of the Milton site is expected but this will be kept as brief as possible. During this period, residents can use nearby centres at Thriplow, Witchford, and Bluntisham.
- To make visits easier, Cambridgeshire County Council will introduce a new temporary online booking system for these three sites only, if the Milton site is closed. This real-time system will reduce queues and wait times, allowing residents to schedule visits at their convenience, including on the same day. For those without internet access, bookings will also be able to be made over the phone.

The current site area (solid yellow line) and additional extension area (dashed yellow line) that will be added to the new site.

An artist impression of the new site.

Cambridgeshire County Council is working closely with the contractor, Barnes Construction, to minimise disruption and the duration the site is closed for.

The new centre will help to contribute towards the County Council's vision of a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire.

For more details on the new HRC and updates on the construction, visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk and search for 'Milton Household Recycling Centre improvements'

Greener paths ahead: Safer, greener travel for communities on Greenways

Getting around South Cambridgeshire is becoming easier, greener, and safer, thanks to Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Greenways projects.

These routes are designed to help residents, businesses, and visitors walk, cycle, ride and wheel between towns, villages, and Cambridge with less stress and improvements to safety. Here's what's on the horizon for 2025.

The Barton Greenway is set to take a big step forward this year. Works on Barton Road completed last year, which included 1.3km of temporary footpath and ducting for new utilities being laid, mean construction to upgrade and widen the existing path for safer, smoother journeys is expected to begin in March. New features in Barton village, like raised crossings and a 20mph speed limit, will make it safer for everyone – especially schoolchildren heading to Barton Primary School.

In Fulbourn, work on Phase 1 – linking the village to Yarrow Road – is scheduled to start this year. Meanwhile, planning continues for Phases 2 and 3, which will reach Cambridge Railway Station. These routes will mean fewer cars on the roads and safer, quieter school runs for local families. Residents can expect smoother, low-traffic paths connecting them to shops, schools and more.

The Linton Greenway will also see progress. With the first sections already complete, 2025 will bring new design options for an improved footbridge over the A11, making it easier and safer for pedestrians and cyclists to cross, as well as designs for the remaining sections.

In Sawston, plans are moving forward for better-lit paths, upgrades to the DNA route, and safer roads through Stapleford and Great Shelford. Designs should be finalised by spring. These changes will create safer, better connected villages for everyone.

And in Melbourn, the first improvements are already in use, including a newly widened and resurfaced path linking Meldreth Station to Station Road. This year, the focus will be on safer walking and cycling routes through Melbourn and Meldreth and improving links to places like Shepreth, ensuring everyone has a secure way to get to their destination.

Cambridgeshire County Cllr Elisa Meschini, Chair of the GCP, said:

"These projects are about more than infrastructure. They're about building a greener, healthier future for all of us.

Upgrades in Comberton, Horningsea, Melbourn and Linton have already made it safer for people to move around the local area – and progress will continue at pace in 2025."

For updates, visit **www.greatercambridge.org.uk**

New charity offers free bikes and workshops to support communities

The Liberation Cycle is a new charity that rescues bikes destined for landfill and revamps them before giving them for free to people in need across the region.

The charity provides free reconditioned bicycles and bike servicing to individuals facing financial hardship or critical illnesses.

These bikes, delivered free of charge, often become vital lifelines for accessing community services.

The charity is based in the Community Workshop in Ashwell Road, Steeple Morden, but supports people living across Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

Antonio Mariconda, the founder, set up The Liberation Cycle after being inspired by how bikes helped his immigrant father integrate into his new community and supported him emotionally and physically after losing his wife, Clare, to cancer.

The charity addresses a significant environmental issue, repurposing some of the 15 million bikes discarded annually. Donated bikes from Thalia and Cambridgeshire County Council's Household Recycling Centres form the backbone of this effort.

The Liberation Cycle is transforming lives across the region

The charity also runs community workshops under two flagship projects:

- The Regeneration Cycle: Participants dismantle bikes, learn mechanical basics, and contribute to the charity's parts store, fostering skill-building and social interaction.
- The Labour Swap Cycle: Volunteers repair bikes for beneficiaries while gaining advanced mechanical skills to service their own.

With the help of a grant of almost £1,700 from our Community Chest fund, there are plans to hold 192 workshops annually, including sessions for schools, retirees, and families. The Liberation Cycle aims to engage 10 volunteers per session and become the UK's top bike-focused support organisation.

The Liberation Cycle reconditions old bikes to offer them to people in need across the region

Cllr Henry Batchelor, our Lead Cabinet Member for Communities, said:

> **"We are proud to support the incredible work of The Liberation Cycle through our grant funding. Their efforts in refurbishing bicycles and providing them to individuals and families who might not otherwise be able to afford one is a testament to their commitment to building a more inclusive, active, and sustainable community. Access to bikes can transform lives, enabling better mobility, health, and opportunities for all."**

Beyond providing transportation, the charity empowers individuals, reduces waste, and builds connections. For more information or to get involved, visit www.liberationcycle.org.

To find out more about our Community Chest grant scheme, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/community-chest

TIM PHILLIPS & Co. Ltd.
Accountants

EASY TO FIND US
Map on website
FREE PARKING

FREE consultation – No Obligation

INDEPENDENT Specialist Service

Small Businesses
Self Assessment
Personal Taxation

Accounts • Bookkeeping • VAT • Payroll • CIS
Tax Returns • Tax Calculations
Lettings • Higher-Rate Tax Payers

Cart House 2, Copley Hill Business Park, Cambridge Road, Babraham, Cambridge CB22 3GN

01223 830044

TPaccounts.co.uk

HappiTails

Home & Pet Sitting Service

Our mature and experienced Sitters will look after your home & pets 24 hours a day whilst you are away on business or vacation, so you are able to return to happy pets & a tidy home.

We serve a 30 mile radius of Cambridge.

☎ 01223 832604

or email: happitails@icloud.com

www.happitails.co.uk

WESTRIDGE
Property Consultants

Architecture
Planning & Building Regulations
Project Management

We are a Chartered Building Consultancy providing professional services and construction advice on Extensions, Alterations, Refurbishment and New Build projects.

Cambridge

Tel: 01223 233 600

www.westridgeconsultants.co.uk

More ways to get around

A third of UK households own two or more cars or vans, and car numbers on our roads are continuing to increase. Owning an electric car is a greener way to travel, but there are several other cheaper transport options to consider, which are particularly important for those unable to drive.

Active travel methods such as cycling and walking are not only good for your health but bring with them the bonus of being free. For those travelling further afield, e-bikes are becoming increasingly popular, with many workplaces (including ourselves) encouraging employees, to consider their benefits.

Car-sharing schemes such as 'Liftshare' are worth investigating, particularly when commuting to a regular destination. Simply add your journey to a matching database and filter your search to find the best lift share for you!

Whereas traditional bus services allow you to catch a bus from a designated bus stop at various scheduled times throughout the day, **Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)** can offer a more flexible option. DRT is a particularly attractive option in rural areas where traditional bus routes may not be viable.

Tiger On Demand is a new DRT service, allowing users to book bus journeys between designated virtual bus stops within specific zones. Operating Monday to Saturday from 6:30am to 7pm, this flexible and affordable service has been designed to fill critical gaps in public transport, making it easier for people to access work, education, healthcare, and social opportunities. Tiger On Demand is available across South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and West Huntingdonshire, offering improved connectivity for rural and underserved areas.

Journeys can be booked through a user-friendly app, by phone, or via an online portal:

App: via the 'Tiger on Demand' app from Google Play or the App Store

Online: www.tigerondemand.co.uk

Phone: 01480 595 440 (call centre open Monday to Saturday from 6:30am to 7:30pm)

Fares:

- Adults: £2 per journey.
- Children (5-16 years) and Tiger Pass Holders: £1 per journey.
- Under 5s and Concessionary and Disability Bus Pass Holders: Free travel.

TIGER On Demand

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

Up to date bus timetables, information on bus passes and active travel can be found on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority webpage: **https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/**

Two trainlines operate in the district:

Govia Thameslink Railway runs from Cambridge to London King's Cross via Foxton, Shepreth and Meldreth and to King's Lynn via Waterbeach.

Greater Anglia runs from Cambridge to London Liverpool Street via Shelford and Whittlesford Parkway.

Community transport in South Cambridgeshire plays a vital role in connecting residents who do not have their own transport and cannot easily access public transport. These services, primarily operated by voluntary and community sector organisations, offer essential mobility solutions, particularly for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and those in isolated rural areas. This brings with it enormous social and economic benefits. This includes combating loneliness and social isolation, helping people remain independent and allowing them to access services.

‘Community transport in South Cambridgeshire plays a vital role in connecting residents who do not have their own transport and cannot easily access public transport.’

Community transport includes:

Dial-A-Ride services: Wheelchair-accessible minibuses and cars providing door-to-door transport. Royston and District Community Transport serves Royston and surrounding South Cambridgeshire villages, Huntingdon Association of Community Transport serves the villages towards the Huntingdon side of South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge Dial-a-Ride serves Milton, Sawston, Bar Hill, Girton, Cottenham, Histon and Impington and The Voluntary Network serves Linton, West Wickham, Great Wilbraham, Weston Colville, Carlton, West Wratting, Horseheath, Castle Camps, Weston Green, Abington and Balsham.

Hospital transport: In general, patients are responsible for getting themselves to and from non-urgent NHS appointments. NHS Cambridgeshire funds patient transport in certain circumstances. For example, where the patient’s medical condition is such that they require the skills and support of Patient Transport Services staff. Transport is arranged through your GP surgery and is subject to eligibility.

Community car schemes: Run by volunteer drivers coordinated at the village level, these schemes operate across the district and charge passengers a per-mile rate, ensuring affordability. If a scheme does not cover a particular parish, neighbouring schemes may be able to assist, though additional mileage costs might apply. Care Network Cambridgeshire collaborates with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to support the establishment of new community car schemes. Individuals or groups interested in setting up a scheme can reach out to Care Network Cambridgeshire on 01954 211919.

Taxi Card scheme: This is aimed at those aged 65 or over who live in Papworth Everard, Fen Ditton, Horningsea, Teversham, Fulbourn, Girton, Grantchester, Histon, Impington, Oakington, Sawston, Cambourne and Babraham. Journeys need to be mainly for essential purposes such as medical appointments or shopping.

Moped and mobility scooter hire: For example, Shopmobility schemes that can lend manual wheelchairs and powered scooters to members of the public who might have limited mobility when they shop or visit leisure and other facilities within the town.

Cambridge Dial-a-Ride is a non-profit organisation offering accessible transport for individuals aged 16+ in Cambridge and nearby villages who face difficulties using public transport due to disability, infirmity, or age. The service operates on weekdays, providing travel for medical appointments, shopping, social visits, and more, including outings to destinations beyond Cambridge. Minibuses are equipped with lifts for wheelchairs, and drivers assist passengers door-to-door. Membership costs £15 annually, and fares apply for each journey. Journeys must be booked in advance via phone, with flexible pick-up times to accommodate other passengers. For more information call 01223 506335 or email **memberssupport@cambridgedialaride.org.uk**

For further details on Community Transport operators in South Cambridgeshire, including their contact details details, go to **www.scambs.gov.uk/community-transport**

JPT DESIGN CONSULTANTS LTD.

Architectural Drawings for Residential Planning and Building Control Applications

NEED TO CREATE MORE SPACE IN YOUR HOME?

Let us come and tell you what's possible!

Extensions - Conservatories - Loft or garage conversions - New build projects

WE DON'T STOP THERE!

We can draw your plans for you, apply for planning permission and building control approval.

Before

Concept Design

After

WANT TO KNOW IF YOU CAN AFFORD TO DO IT?

We can also provide estimated building costs so you know whether the ideas are within your budget.
Contact us for a free no obligation consultation on:

T: 01954 717442 E: Info@jptdesign.co.uk

Visit our facebook page to view previous projects - JPT Design Consultants

www.jptdesign.co.uk

The Studio, 23 Halifax Road, Upper Cambourne, CB23 6AX

LABC BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2017 REGIONAL FINALIST

SHELFORD HEATING

More than just a service

Heating Plumbing Renewables Bathrooms

Shelford Heating is a long established Family owned Business undertaking jobs annually within a 20 mile radius of its head office in Sawston, Cambridge. Our Team are available Monday through to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm.

Specialising in Design, Installation and Maintenance of Plumbing and Heating within the Home or Business whether this is fuelled by Gas, Oil, LPG, and Renewable Energy - We also undertake general plumbing and are pleased to offer a full design and installation service for your new bathroom from start to finish. All of our Installation Work is backed by Workmanship Warranties, and the Manufacturers we choose to partner with such as Grant, Viessmann, Honeywell, Adey offer leading warranties on their product from 5 to 10 Years.

Our Engineers have undertaken Standard DBS checks giving Customers an extra level of security, allowing access to work within places such as Schools. Colleges, Care Homes. all by directly employed, manufacturer trained and Gas Safe/ OFTEC registered, many of our Engineers are Apprentice Trained holding NVQ Level 3 or City and Guilds. Our ability to diversify through all aspects of Plumbing and Heating allows us to work across a vast array of locations from Mobile Residential Park Homes to traditional homes up to and including Commercial property.

We care about the Environment and are always looking to use the best products available to reduce harmful emissions of C02, Ensuring Annual Maintenance of Fossil Fuel appliances are carried out to achieve the best possible results, Designing and Installing Renewable Energy Systems such as Heat Pump and Solar Hot water – Eagerly awaiting HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil Fuel) as a sustainable alternative to Kerosene, Operating Electric Vehicles within our Fleet of Vehicles and improving our Carbon footprint and finally looking forward to the Rollout of Hydrogen H2 Ready Boilers from Viessmann.

Installers of which Best Buy Oil and Gas boilers Manufactured by Grant and Viessmann.

Call 01223 833 426 • sales@shelfordheating.co.uk • shelfordheating.co.uk

OFTEC Gas Safe Register 534746 MCS Certified TrustMark RECC Renewable Energy Consumer Code G1 Grant Viessmann APHC Mitsubishi Electric Heating Systems Approved Ecodan Installer ecodan

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Live in **South Cambridgeshire?**

Don't miss out on cost of living support

Did you know? Around 25% of benefits go unclaimed. Make sure you're claiming what you're entitled to.

Local foodbanks are available when you need them—most don't require a voucher.

Get expert energy-saving advice and learn about grants for home improvements to help reduce your energy bills.

Visit our website to see what support you could receive:

www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living

Or call 01954 713000 for more information.

WORK-TOPS.COM™

SEARCH BY IMAGE
UK's First AI Image Search Platform

Cambridge-based stone & worktop supplier, serving nationwide
Template to Installation - 10 days

Our Services:

- Kitchen Worktops
- Outdoor Worktops
- Office Worktops
- Vanity Tops
- Stone Sinks
- Bartops
- Stone Tables

Products:

- Granite
- Marble
- Quartzite
- Quartz
- Slate
- Tiles
- Sink & Taps, etc.

1 De La Warr Way, Great Cambourne,
Cambridge, CB23 6DX, UK
+44 (0) 1223 298 117 / info@work-tops.com

Di - Dartford

Great stones! Great service!

Especially thankful to Santosh and his team for meeting very tight deadlines to ensure that we move in with our newborn asap despite some delays on our end. Also grateful to Santosh for listening to me and helping me pick the perfect stone for our kitchen - Sea Pearl Quartzite. I originally wanted totally different stone with different colors and shades, but Santosh convinced me that the Sea Pearl would work better and it did. Our kitchen looks stunning! Also would like to mention the prices which I thought were much more reasonable than I found elsewhere, also don't hesitate asking for a discount. Where possible Santosh makes sure his clients are happy with the price and service. Highly recommend this company!

Grow together with our Community Growing Grant

This spring, we are encouraging you to embrace community spirit and sustainable living through our Community Growing Grant.

This initiative supports the creation of Community Growing Projects across the district, where groups can come together to cultivate their own vegetable patches.

The idea is simple yet impactful, with communities working together to nurture a shared garden, growing fresh produce that benefits everyone involved. Not only do these projects promote healthy eating and reduce food waste, but they also provide an opportunity to connect with neighbours, enjoy the outdoors and learn gardening skills.

To help bring these projects to life, we are offering grants of up to £500. You could put this towards creating a small allotment, starting a community vegetable patch, or transforming an underused space into a thriving garden.

Applications are open to any community group in South Cambridgeshire with a passion for collaboration and green fingers. So why not gather your neighbours, get your hands dirty, and grow something wonderful together?

For more information on how to apply, visit **www.scambs.gov.uk/community-growing-grant** and take the first step toward creating a greener, healthier community this spring.

Court experience day to educate students about risks of knife crime

The South Cambs Community Safety Partnership, led by our Council colleagues, took groups of year nine students to a local court for Knife Crime Awareness Days during November 2024, and early this year.

Based on a package designed by East Cambridgeshire's Community Safety Partnership, we made use of Ely Magistrate's Court to give students the experience of being in a real courtroom. They role-played a bag search under suspicion of carrying a knife, a police interview, and a subsequent court session.

The day also involved a presentation around the risks of carrying knives – including that the knife could be used against you, as well as the impact that being prosecuted for carrying a knife without a valid reason can have on future job and travel prospects. We also covered how having a knife makes you more likely to injure someone in a way that will do lasting harm to not only them, but also you and your future and the impact on loved ones.

We were joined by Quinton Green from Music Mentoring Arts and Poetry

Workshops, who led the students in thinking about their aspirations and having positive future goals to guide their decisions, including how influences of games and social media can desensitise us to violence and lead to fears of knife-carrying being more common than it is.

Police colleagues also joined us and gave the students a question and answer session with insights into their work, as well as a Magistrate to lead us through the court role-play, all to inspire young people towards possible careers in policing, and legal and court roles.

Contact **communitysafety@scambs.gov.uk** if you would like more information or support with this topic.

Business spotlight: Barton

Rural charm and emphasis on local businesses can be found across most of South Cambridgeshire's villages.

In particular, Barton is a magnet for wild walk seekers and unique retail shoppers with the popular Burwash Manor at the forefront of celebrating the joys of independent businesses. Blend all this together and Barton is a destination worth visiting.

Not four miles from Cambridge, the heart of the village has a serene duck pond reflecting seasonal change and with it, adjacent to its green, an illustrated map of local trails enticing walkers and dog owners to explore winding countryside footpaths. A quaint parade of storefronts, the village post office and convenience store are also found in this pleasant spot.

Within walking distance, Burwash Manor becomes the centre of attention. A vibrant, thriving mix of independently owned boutiques and eateries and home to seasonal events, it is a popular destination all year round and open seven days a week. Art Hound Gallery is home to distinctive contemporary prints and portraits demanding perusal before visiting Burwash Larder for a wide selection of fresh delicacies and organic delights. Remaining in the mood for food, in the courtyard's centre, Flock Café serves a variety of home baked treats, light meals and, during warmer months, is great for a coffee outdoors in the sun thanks to available tables and chairs.

Venturing further - yet barely scratching the surface - diverse artisan gifts, flowering bouquets, exclusive clothing and colourful fabrics can be found across Freda & Bert, The Manor Florist, Cuckoo Clothing, and Backstitch

– each fascinatingly stocked with something for everyone to enjoy.

The village is also home to two pubs. The White Horse combines a traditional pub interior with a terrific homemade and cooked to order Thai menu. It has both indoor and outdoor seating and offers rooms, making this an ideal location for overnight stays so close to the city. Back towards the duck pond, The Hoops is a characterful venue offering excellent live music and themed evenings for its locals and regular visitors. With outdoor furniture, there is choice here too for alfresco drinks in warmer seasons.

Elsewhere, Barton has a plethora of additional services and experiences. Maggie's Farm Shop has a glowing array of food, coffee and luxury products; The Retreats offers beauty and wellness packages; and our four-legged friends can enjoy dog-training facility, Positive Paws.

Supporting these businesses not only guarantees a memorable visit but also contributes to the sustainability and allure of this picturesque village. Why not plan a visit and see for yourself?

Cllr Peter McDonald, our Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said:

> "Small businesses are at the heart of our community and supporting them is vital for keeping our local economy strong, creating jobs, and preserving the unique character of our area. Every pound spent locally helps our villages thrive and continue to be wonderful places to live, work, and visit.
>
> If you are a local business and would like a free listing on our Visit South Cambs website, then please head to the listings section of our website at www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk/free-listings or email visit@scambs.gov.uk"

Remember, if you'd like your village featured in a future spotlight, just email **openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk**

Our Charity

Our charity provides a home, support and work & training opportunities for 44 formerly homeless people

Our residents work in our charity shop emporium in Landbeach, our cafe, Joan's Coffee Shop and our house clearance business.

emmaus
Cambridge
working together to end homelessness

Visit us!

Find our shop and cafe in Landbeach

Donate your unwanted items!
We collect!

Support Us

You can support our homelessness charity by shopping, donating goods, volunteering and just simply visiting us!

Contact Us

01223 863 657

info@emmauscambridge.org

emmaus.org.uk/cambridge

Connect with us:

Markets across South Cambs

Organised by our Economic Development and Investment team, the third annual South Cambridgeshire Christmas Market took place on 7 December at Cambourne Village College.

Despite bad weather, the joyous event was still enjoyed by 1,000 visitors, welcoming around 100 local businesses – the largest market run we've run to date.

Four hours of free-pitch trading allowed ambitious small businesses to market their wares as the month's festivities began to ramp up. Stallholders trading at the event commented after the market saying it was an "excellent, well-run event", "an amazing effort", "this has to be the most organised event I have been to", and one heartfelt quote went on to say, "from the bottom of my heart a BIG THANK YOU to everyone involved – it is truly appreciated".

The market was also an opportunity for some of our Youth Engagement participants to gain real-life market experience.

Our team is on hand to support market organisers and traders all year round. Our online toolkit includes advice on setting up a market and a stallholder directory which helps link up organisers and traders. We can also offer advice on location, floorplans, marketing, timings, and more. You can access the toolkit at **www.scambs.gov.uk/south-cambridgeshire-markets**

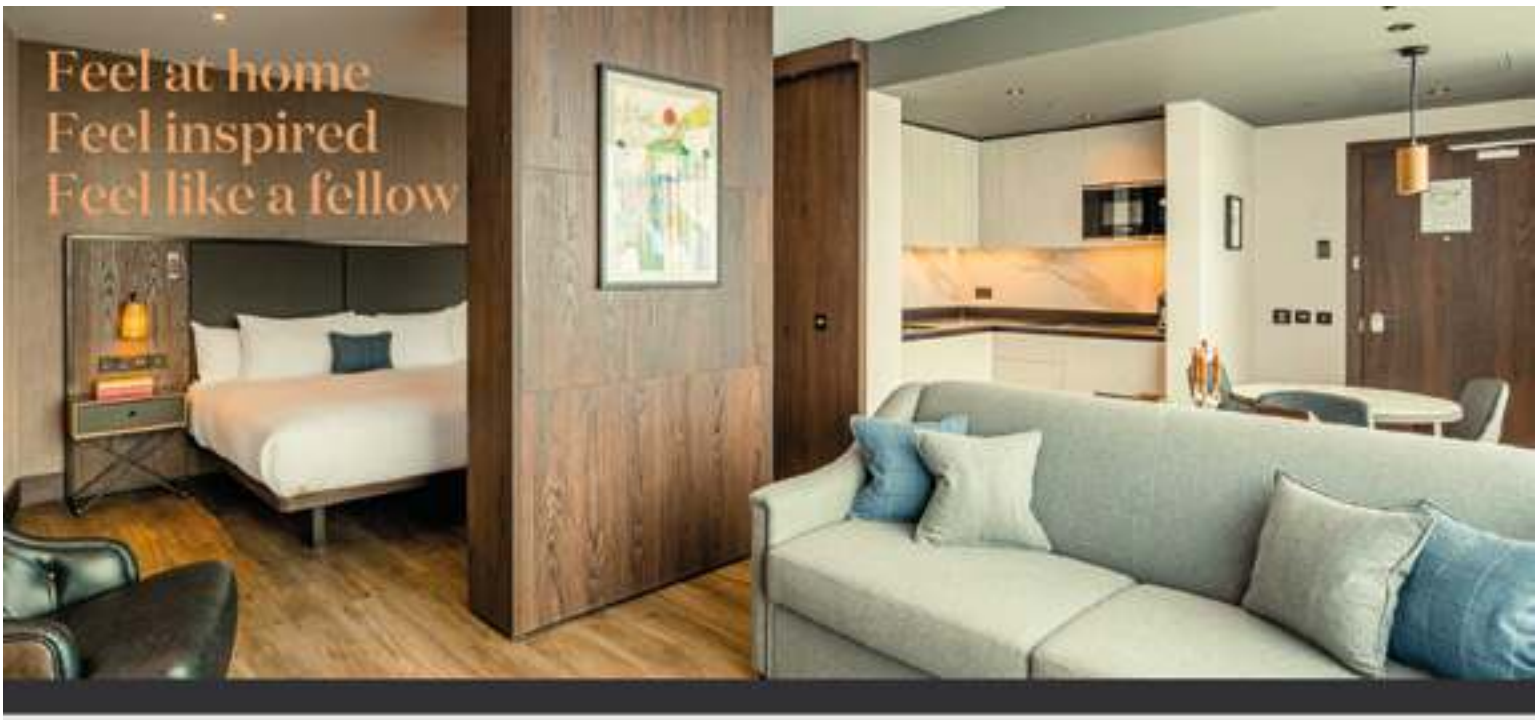
Dedicated market support is frequently provided by the team to villages across the district. In 2024, Cottenham Market was proudly re-established with our officers assisting the Parish Council to revamp its monthly event at the village hall. Hands-on advice about new traders, local initiatives and advertising methods helps this now buoyant market thrive on the first Sunday of each month. Similarly, practical tips and suggestions were provided to key market stakeholders at Caxton Village Hall, contributing to its first ever market last year where an array of vibrant local traders showcased fresh produce every second Sunday of the month. Both markets display hallmarks of traditional local markets with a direct focus on supporting on-your-doorstep businesses.

Shop and support local businesses using **www.scambs.gov.uk/find-a-local-market** to find a market near you.

Our visitor economy website **www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk** also lists markets, including seasonal and pop-up markets, happening in the district, along with a wide variety of other local events, activities and attractions. We also highlight markets happening across the district on the Visit South Cambs social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and X.

Elaine Boyd, one of The Gransden's Farmers Market team, said:

> "Thanks for the shout out before last weekend. Our footfall was brilliant and from right across the area."



The Fellows House is an apartment-style hotel for visitors to Cambridge who want to feel truly at home, while experiencing the most refined and inspiring stays the city has to offer.

- 103 Rooms & Suites & Apartments
- Fully Equipped Kitchens
- Underground Car Parking
- Indoor Pool, Spa & Fitness Suite
- Onsite Bar & Restaurant
- Meeting & Event Facilities

The Fellows House Mews

Four thoughtfully-crafted three-storey townhouses set in the grounds of Cambridge's newest and most inspiring destination - The Fellows House. Each Mews house is dedicated to a Fellow of Cambridge University and uniquely styled and decorated in homage of their namesakes.

The Folio Bar & Kitchen

The Folio Bar & Kitchen adds a new and exciting chapter to the pages of dining and drinking in Cambridge.

Join us at the Folio bar to meet, network and socialise whether you are a guest at the hotel or just passing by.

Follow as our creative chefs compose home-cooked classics full of clever twists and inspiring turns. Featuring plant-based experiments and favourite drinks given a wonderfully-crafted modern rethink.

The Sage of Cambridge

At The Sage of Cambridge we are passionate about uplifting your day with great coffee, fresh and hearty dishes, inspired but not limited to the plant-based experiments.

In the evenings The Sage hosts a variety of events for in-house guests and the local community.

THE FELLOWS HOUSE

THE FELLOWS HOUSE CAMBRIDGE,
CURIO COLLECTION BY HILTON
33 Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1UZ
T: +44 (0) 1223 94 94 90
E: reservations@thefellowshouse.com
W: www.thefellowshouse.com

DISCOVER OUR EVENTS ON EVENTBRITE

Helping you overcome life's ups and downs

Our range of stairlifts offer you much more choice ...and no VAT!

NARROW STRAIGHT

STRAIGHT

CURVED

RECONDITIONED

Our stairlifts are designed and installed with your comfort in mind with a range of accessibility features and ergonomic padding to help keep you safe and secure.

With a quick installation time and a high-quality design, our stairlifts will be comfortable and easy to use regardless of age and disability, helping you to regain confidence and independence.

- Free home survey and quotation
- Stairlifts for any staircase
- Straight (including narrow) and curved
- New, customised or reconditioned
- Service contracts for peace of mind
- Ask for our free brochure

Neon group

Step-free technology

Neon Group Ltd
Church Farm | Eyeworth | Sandy | SG19 2HH
Telephone: 01767 660534 | Sales: 0330 373 5364

www.neon-group.co.uk

Award winning Service celebrates a successful year

Our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Youth Engagement Service (YES) were delighted to attend the annual Network CB23 Primary School Careers Convention last year.

This convention is one of the many outreach projects which the YES team take part in and was an opportunity to encourage over 500 primary school students from the Greater Cambridge region, aged between 10 and 12, to consider pursuing careers in the built and natural environment professions, and to learn about the basics of placemaking and citizenship.

Our YES team gave useful advice on the subjects that they need to study at GCSE, A-Level and university to obtain relevant qualifications to become a town planner, urban designer, architect, landscape architect, arboriculturist, heritage specialist and ecologist. Children also learnt about the basics of placemaking through fun games and quizzes.

The team also ran an in-person survey with over 350 children to understand what they considered important in terms of our priorities. It generated useful qualitative and quantitative data to help plan community facilities for our youth population.

Cllr Dr. Tumi Hawkins, our Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, attended October's convention and said:

> **"We are pleased that over 500 students have benefitted from our Youth Engagement Service. Throughout 2025, the YES team will continue regular work with schools and colleges in the district to engage local young people and obtain their views on development proposals in Greater Cambridge through our workshops. It aims to ensure that children and young people have genuine input into a development proposal, including the design of buildings, play spaces, public realm and public art."**

Meanwhile, in January this year, the YES team proudly received the Social Value Award at the Thornton Education Trust Inspire Future Generations awards ceremony. The YES team were also finalists in six other award categories.

This came after work last summer, when the YES team engaged 60 Year 5 students from Bellbird Primary School in a Public Art Project; 'The Seed'. The partnership included local artist Harry Gray, Abstract Securities Ltd, Bowmer and Kirkland Ltd, Sphere25 and Michael Laird Architects. It enabled students to take part in design workshops comprising a site visit, careers talk on art and architecture, a fun stone carving workshop and a design competition to draw a pattern for 'The Seed' - a 4 metre high Portland stone sculpture.

'The Seed' contains multiple slots - each student had the opportunity to design their own pattern in the form of a little 'stone' seed, which will be inserted into the main sculpture. This project was designed based on the 'YES Social Value Statement' and the 'Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Framework', ensuring young people have a genuine input into public art and develop confidence to communicate their design ideas to adults.

3C Shared Services Building Control nominated at national awards

Our 3C Shared Services Building Control service has been nominated as Local Authority Team of the Year in national awards, for the third successive year.

3C Shared Services Building Control is a partnership providing local authority Building Control across Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire.

The partnership received awards in the East Anglian heat of the annual Local Authority Building Excellence Awards (LABC) 2024 - which is testament to their hard work.

The awards are among the largest in the building control sector across 12 regions in the UK, with entries submitted by service users.

There are place award categories for domestic and non-domestic projects, as well as people award categories for those who work within the construction industry involved in projects.

East Anglia regional winner for best non-residential new build, Project Birchwood, Melbourn Science Park. Project Team: SDC Builders, Sheppard Robson, TTP, 3C Shared Services Building Control

Congratulations to all the 3C Shared Services Regional East Anglia winners. They are:

- Winner: Best residential extension - Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge
- Winner: Best small new housing development - Grange Farm, Huntingdon
- Winner: Best medium volume new housing development - Elm Street, Cambridge
- Winner: Best small social housing development - More's Meadow, Cambridge
- Winner: Best large social housing development - Campkin Road, Cambridge
- Winner: LABC Site Manager of the Year - Anthony Koop, Morris Homes
- Winner: Best non-residential new build - Project Birchwood, Melbourn Science Park
- Winner: Public Service Superstar for collaboration working with 3C Shared Services - Danny Hans, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Highly Commended: Best large social housing development - Ironworks, Cambridge

All Regionals Winners were entered into the national final.
For more information visit
www.labc.co.uk/awards/building-excellence-awards-2024

If you are considering your own improvement project, you may need to consider whether you require Building Regulations approval.
For further advice and to make a Building Regulations application get in touch:

Website: 3csharedservices.org

Phone: 0300 7729622

Email: buildingcontrol@3csharedservices.org

You can also visit the LABC Frontdoor website for advice on home improvements, building regulations and working with builders and designers:

Website: www.labcfrontdoor.co.uk

3C Shared Services
Local Authority Building Control

Bottomless dinner for four people at Scott's All Day

Scott's All Day based on Mill Road in Cambridge are offering a lucky winner a three course bottomless dinner for four people, with unlimited refills of soft drinks, Prosecco, wine or bottled lager!

'Scott' is Scott Holden who moved to Cambridge in 2013 to manage Fitzbillies, after running some of London's best casual restaurants (The Pig and Butcher, Smokehouse and Heirloom).

In Cambridge, Scott and his family lived off Mill Road, growing to love the area's rich food scene. When the opportunity came to open his dream neighbourhood cafe, it could only be on one street.

Scott has travelled widely, working in Vancouver and New York, running a low and slow BBQ restaurant and obsessively checking out every diner, deli and corner joint from Brooklyn to the Bronx. The quirky neighbourhood restaurants and diversity of great tasting quick food helped shape his ideas for Scott's. Just like those cosy dives embedded in New York's avenues, Scott wanted to build a home-from-home for locals with friendly faces and comforting dishes.

"Cambridge is a great place for food right now, says Scott, and there are amazing suppliers in the countryside all around, but I reckon there's something more. Mill Road is our greatest food asset - tremendous ingredients from all over the world, a cosmopolitan crowd and a particular attitude I really recognise - a kind of feisty community pride".

In 2024, Scott won the PAPA (Pizza and Pasta Awards) Pizza Chef of the Year competition, and also scooped the Bloggers choice award at the National Pizza Awards.

To enter

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

What is the name of our recently launched website AI Assistant?

a) AVA

b) BOB

c) SAM

You can enter the competition online.

www.scambs.gov.uk

Click 'Apply' and then 'Reader's competition'.

Don't have Internet access?
You can enter by post. Send your name, address and telephone number, along with your answer to the question, to:

South Cambs Magazine Competition,
South Cambridgeshire District Council,
Cambourne Business Park,
Cambourne, CB23 6EA

Closing date for entries is 5pm on Monday 31 March.

Terms and conditions are available at www.scambs.gov.uk/t-c or can be requested by calling us.

The winner will be notified in April and announced in the summer issue of South Cambs Magazine.

adc THEATRE

spring season 2025 now on sale

FREE online booking at www.adctheatre.com or call 01223 300085

STRATASOLAR.CO.UK
INFO@STRATASOLAR.CO.UK

RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES INSTALLED IN CAMBRIDGE

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

Strata
SOLAR LIMITED
01223 944 814

EXTERNAL WALL INSULATION & RENDERING SPECIALISTS CURRENTLY IN YOUR AREA

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME

Strata
INSULATED RENDERS LTD
01223 944 054
info@strata-insulatedrenders.com
www.strata-insulatedrenders.com